

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14472

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BQG PGOV US GE
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FRG, UK, FRANCE ON US-GDR RELATIONS

REFS: (A) BERLIN 6991; (B) STATE 203064

1. WE FULLY AGREE WITH THE NECESSITY FOR CONTINUING A FREE AND TIMELY FLOW OF INFORMATION WITH THE FRG, FRENCH AND UK MISSIONS IN EAST BERLIN. WE ASSUME THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT INTEND OUR BRIEFINGS HERE TO SUPPLANT THOSE BY EMBASSY BERLIN. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN THE US INTEREST FOR EMBASSY BONN TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PARALLEL BRIEFINGS TO THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE AS WELL AS THE FRENCH AND UK EMBASSIES ON SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN GDR/US RELATIONS.

2. AT ALLIED URGING, THE FRG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN RECENT MONTHS IN KEEPING US WELL INFORMED NOT ONLY ON FRG/GDR NEGOTIATIONS WHERE ALLIED INTERESTS ARE DIRECTLY AFFECTED (E.G., BERLIN, CIVIL AVIATION AND ALLIED RESIDUAL RIGHTS FOR GERMANY AS A WHOLE) BUT ON VARIOUS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL. SINCE THE FRG HAS MUCH MORE TO PROVIDE THAN WE DO, IT IS IMPORTANT
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TO ENCOURAGE THE FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM FRG REPRESENTATIVES IN BONN BY UTILIZING THE AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE THIS A TWO-WAY STREET WITH RESPECT TO RELATIONS WITH THE GDR.

3. THE BONN GROUP CONTINUES TO BE THE NORMAL CHANNEL, ALTHOUGH WE CAN, AND DO, CONVEY SUCH INFORMATION

BILATERALLY TO OUR FRG COUNTERPARTS ESPECIALLY WHERE, AS IN REF (B), WE ARE DIRECTED TO BRIEF THE FRG WITH NO MENTION MADE OF THE UK AND FRANCE. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO BRIEF THE UK AND FRENCH IN THE BONN GROUP REGARDING THE SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR BOLEN'S INITIAL MEETINGS WITH GDR LEADERS.

4. ANOTHER AND PERHAPS MORE COMPELLING REASON FOR CONTINUED BRIEFINGS OF THE FRG IN BONN IS THAT WHILE FRG PERMREP CHIEF GAUS REPORTS TO THE CHANCELLERY, IT IS THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH PROVIDES THE FRG REPRESENTATION IN THE BONN GROUP AND IN PERIODIC QUADRIpartite MEETINGS AT SENIOR LEVELS. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE CHANCELLERY AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE ARE NOT ALWAYS THE BEST, AND FONOFF OFFICIALS OBVIOUSLY APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED DIRECTLY OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE US RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GDR. INDEED, IT IS ONLY THROUGH BRIEFINGS IN THE BONN GROUP OR BILATERALLY HERE THAT WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT THE FOREIGN OFFICE IS RECEIVING ALL THAT THE USG WANTS IT TO KNOW ABOUT US/GDR RELATIONS.

5. GIVEN THE FACT THAT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY EMBASSIES BERLIN AND BONN OFTEN IS REPORTED TO DIFFERENT ADDRESSEES IN BONN (THE CHANCELLERY AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE), THE TIMING OF THE RESPECTIVE BRIEFINGS IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE. WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY BERLIN'S PREFERENCE FOR TAKING THE LEAD UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SUGGEST THAT BERLIN INFORM US OF ITS INTENDED BRIEFINGS (AS IT HAS DONE IN REF A) SO THAT WE CAN PLAN OUR SCHEDULE ACCORDINGLY.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF THE FRENCH AND UK BONN GROUP REPS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INITIAL MEETINGS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR BOLEN AND GDR LEADERS.
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